

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2753  
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014  
ALCOHOL BASED HAND SANITISERS  
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a research/study which suggests that Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are inefficient in removing norovirus and may cause bowel disorder;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for the Indian hand sanitiser manufacturing companies to carry the warning on their products in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): Yes. ICMR has informed that they are aware of a study published in American Journal of Infection Control. In response to increase in norovirus illness during Dec. 2006 to March 2007 in northern New England, an attempt was made to identify the institutional risk factors for norovirus outbreaks in long term care facilities (LTCFs) in hospitals. Information regarding routine staff use of alcohol based hand sanitisers (ABHS) versus soap and water, and occurrence of any acute gastroenteritis outbreaks from Dec 2006 to March 2007 was sought from 160 facilities in hospitals. The study suggests that preferential use of ABHS over soap and water for routine hand hygiene might be associated with increased risk of norovirus outbreaks in LTCFs. However, ICMR per-se has not conducted any study to validate these findings.

(c) & (d): There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry.